

Application No.: 10/606,376

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Docket No.: JCLA11125-R

DEC 20 2006

REMARKSPresent Status of the Application

The Office Action rejected claims 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Amano (JP 04033202A). The Office Action rejected claims 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amano.

Applicant has canceled claims 13-15 and 17 and newly added claims 18-28 to more clearly define the present invention. The newly added claims are supported by the specification and the drawings, and no new matter is added. After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 18-28 remain pending in the present application, and reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

Discussion of Claim Rejections

The Office Action rejected claims 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Amano (JP 04033202A) and rejected claims 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amano. Now, Applicant has canceled claims 13-15 and 17 and newly added claims 18-28 to overcome the rejections.

The present invention is related a back light module as claims 18 and 21 recite:

18. A back light module, comprising:

a frame having a bottom surface;

at least one U-shaped lamp tube disposed inside the frame, having:

*two electrodes substantially located toward the bottom surface of the frame; and
two straight portions having the same length.*

22. A back light module, comprising:

Page 4

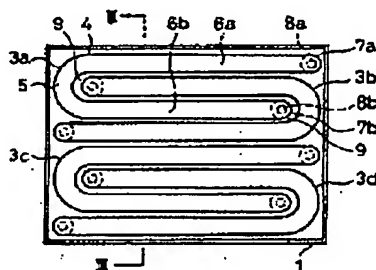
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Application No.: 10/606,376

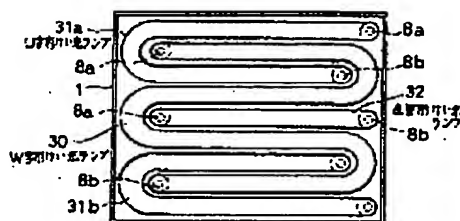
Docket No.: JCLA11125-R

a frame having a bottom surface;
 at least a lamp tube module disposed inside the frame, the lamp tube module comprising
 at least two U-shaped lamp tubes and each U-shaped lamp tube having:
two electrodes substantially located toward the bottom surface of the frame; and
two straight portions having the same length.

Amano fails to disclose, teach or suggest the U-shaped lamp tube has two electrodes substantially located toward the bottom surface of the frame and two straight portions having the same length. In the Amano reference, the straight portions 6a and 6b are different in length. From Figs. 2 and 5 as shown, the straight portion 6a is longer than the straight portion 6b.



第 2 図



第 5 図

Application No.: 10/606,376

Docket No.: JCLA11125-R

Amano teaches another U shape lamp tube as shown in Fig. 4. Even through the straight portions 6a, 6b are the same in length, the two electrodes 8a, 8b of the lamp is directly toward the sidewall of the frame but not toward the bottom surface of the frame.



第 4 図

In claims 18 and 22 of the present application, the U-shaped lamp tube has *two electrodes substantially located toward the bottom surface of the frame* and *two straight portions having the same length*. Because the two electrodes are located toward the bottom surface of the frame and the two straight portions have the same length, the circuit for the two electrodes can be formed on the bottom of the frame and a shortest distance exists between the two electrodes. That is, the circuit for the two electrodes, such inverter, can be integrated together so as to reduce the signal line length between the two electrodes. The signal line length between the two electrodes is even omitted. On the contrary, since the straight portions 6a and 6b are different in length in the Amano, the distance between two electrodes of the U shape lamp tube is longer, and thus it is difficult to integrate the circuit of the two electrodes and a signal line between the two electrodes is even needed.

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For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 18 and 22 patently define over the prior art reference, and should be allowed. For at least the same reasons, dependent claims 19-21 and 23-28 patently defines over the prior art as well.

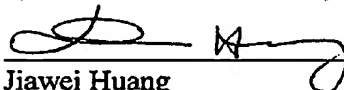
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Page 7

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